

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01818 052247Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-05
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-12
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1174
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01818

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, SF, AO
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: MILITARY BRIEFINGS ON SOUTH AFRICAN
STRIKE INTO ANGOLA

REF: ATTACHE REPORT 6 880 0200 78

1. THE ATTACHED REPORT NOTES THAT MILITARY ATTACHES
RESIDENT IN PRETORIA WERE CALLED TO MILITARY INTELL
LIGENCE HEADQUARTERS FOR A BRIEFING ON SOUTH AFRICAN
STRIKE INTO ANGOLA. PARA 6 NOTES THE INTENTION OF THE
SOUTH AFRICANS TO PROVIDE ATTACHES WITH ADDITIONAL
MATERIAL AND TO BRIEF REPRESENTATIVES OF FIVE ON PAR-
TICULARS OF THE STRIKE. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT WE WILL
HAVE TO ENDURE SOUTH AFRICAN ATTEMPTS TO JUSTIFY THEIR
INCURSION, PARTICULARLY AS THEY RESPOND TO OUR DE-
MARCHES, WE STRONGLY QUESTION THE ADVISABILITY OF PAR-
TICIPATION BY ATTACHES IN BRIEFINGS. MOREOVER, WE DO
NOT BELIEVE THAT THE FIVE SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THESE
BRIEFINGS ENVISIONED IN PARA 6 REFTEL. PIK BOTHA'S
STATEMENT TODAY GOES A LONG WAY TOWARDS TRYING TO
JUSTIFY THE STRIKE ON THE BASIS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE
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FIVE. WE BELIEVE PARTICIPATION IN THE BRIEFINGS WOULD
SIMPLY LEAD TO A CONTINUATION OF THIS TREND. IT SHOULD
BE CLEAR TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS THAT THEIR ACTION WAS
POLITICALLY UNJUSTIFIED, AND THAT NO MILITARY ADVANTAGE
WHICH THEY MIGHT REAP IN THE SHORT TERM CAN OUT-WEIGH
THE POLITICAL RISK RESULTING FROM THEIR ACTIONS.
LEONARD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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